



Lesson Seven

Compare & Contrast

Goal: The students will understand the diversity of people, technology, economics, and science, and how each has changed over time.

Objectives:

- to demonstrate an understanding that things change and evolve over time
- to draw conclusions about how and why things change over time
- to compare and contrast the old and the new
- to understand that the present is a result of the past
- to relate to history and understand our connectedness to it

Colorado Model Content Standards Addressed:

History: K-8 (2.3)

Science: K-8 (5.0)

Geography: K-8 (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 6.1)

Reading: K-8 (2, 3, 4, 5)

Materials Needed:

Compare and Contrast Activity Sheet (included)

Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer (Venn diagram works well)

Background Information:

This can be a group activity or an individual activity. It can be led by the student or teacher depending on the teacher's style, time, and individual activities which develop from this activity. It may also be performed orally as a group with each student contributing to the activity. Questions for an activity in Lesson 9 could come from this exercise.

Activity One:

It is valuable to model for the class what you expect their work to look like. This activity is more useful if the teacher creates a "compare and contrast diagram" on the board with the entire class participating. Pick one pair of items from the compare and contrast list. Draw a large Venn diagram on the board and have the students come up with details which will fit the categories. A Venn diagram is a graphic organizer that works well for children of all ages. It provides visual reinforcement. Before you write suggestions on the board see if the rest of the class agrees about acceptance and placement.

Once the group activity is complete, allow the students to choose a "Then & Now" topic from the Compare and Contrast Activity Sheet. Each group should create their own Venn Diagram on their chosen topic. Working with a partner who is interested in the same topic is a great way to format this activity. Let the librarian know what you are working on ahead of time, and expectations so he or she will have books ready which will help the students with this project. Having access to the library, as well as the computer, is beneficial.

Activity Two:

Once groups have completed their Venn diagrams, it is important to orally share their information with the entire class. Review the skills expected in an oral presentation before the students share their information.

Compare and Contrast

Life in the mountains	Life on the Plains
Trading Post	Military Post
Oregon Trail	Santa Fe Trail
Life in the West	Life in the East
Life in the 1800's	Life today
Westward travel	Space Travel
Wagon caravan travel	Modern day travel
Maps from the 1800's	Present day maps
1800's medicine	Modern day medicine
1800's fears	Today's fears
1800's entertainment	Modern entertainment
1800's food & preparation	Today's food & preparation
1800's hardships	Today's hardships
1800's technology	Modern day technology
1800's clothing	Modern day clothing

The above activities are simply suggestions. Take and tailor them to fit your needs. Feel free to use ideas or suggestions from your students.